Talks with Saudi Arabia

89. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which talks were held between the delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India during the recent visit of the King of Saudi Arabia to India; and

(b) the topics on which agreements were signed between the two countries along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The talks covered bilateral and international issues of importance to both countries.

(b) The following agreements were signed:

a. Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPPA)

b. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement/Convention (DTAA/DTAC).

c. Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Crime.

d. Cooperation Agreement in the field of Youth and Sports.

Justice Kurdukar Commission report

*90. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Ratnagiri Power and Gas (P) Limited (RGPPL) formerly known as Dabhol Power Company;

(b) whether the RGPPL is slated to be commissioned in June, 2006 and if so, whether the project would go on stream on schedule;

(c) whether the prices of gas (feedstock for the project) have soared from $4.00 per million British thermal unit (mbtu) to $10.00 per mbtu which will escalate the cost of production from the original Rs. 3.00 per unit to Rs. 9.00; and

(d) whether Justice Kurdukar Commission appointed to probe the prospects of revived project has submitted its report, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per the restructuring framework finalized by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), a project SPV in the name of Ratanagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) was registered on 8th July 2005 to acquire the Dabhol Project free of any encumbrances and liabilities through consent route. The project assets have been transferred to RGPPL on 22.09.2005 by an order of Mumbai High Court and the company has taken possession of the assets on 06.10.2005. RGPPL has started activities for revival, restrart and re-commissioning of the Power Project for Commercial Operation.